



# News From MAIENstreet

## A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Brian Maienschein

May 2007 Volume 7, Issue 3



Proudly Representing the  
District Five  
Communities of:

*Carmel Mountain Ranch*  
*Mira Mesa*  
*Rancho Bernardo*  
*Sabre Springs*  
*San Pasqual*  
*Scripps Ranch*  
*Sorrento Mesa*

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## Maienschein Proposes Zero Tolerance for Graffiti Taggers

We see it almost daily as we drive home from work or pick up the kids from school. Another wall has been spray painted or another building has been defaced. Graffiti is showing up at parks, homes and even schools. Innocent residents and business owners are paying out of pocket to repair property that has been vandalized and defaced again and again by "taggers". And unfortunately, too often these people are not being held accountable for their destructive actions.

Graffiti has become much more than an indiscretion or a bad judgment call and it is costing San Diegans more than a simple coat of paint. Graffiti is spreading throughout our City at an alarming rate as we see more and more neighborhoods being marked by teens with a disregard for the law and for personal property. Last year the City of San Diego spent more than one million dollars on graffiti abatement, education and enforcement. This figure does not include the millions of dollars that other public agencies, utility companies and private citizens must pay to clean-up and repair their damaged property.

However, perhaps more alarming than the financial impacts, is the fact that graffiti has become an act directly linked to gang activity. In fact, many teens are introduced to gang culture through their participation in "tagging" or other acts of vandalism. Graffiti is often the first step in a lifetime of violence and disregard for the law.

Considering these frightening facts, I was shocked to find that the City's laws regarding graffiti treated the crime as an "obnoxious act" and a "public nuisance". There is no guaranteed prosecution of these crimes nor are there any mandatory penalties for the responsible parties.

It is for this reason, that I recently proposed a "Zero Tolerance of Taggers" Ordinance for enactment by the Mayor and Police Department. This ordinance would require mandatory penalties for all taggers including charging them with misdemeanors and requiring the responsible party to remove the graffiti. Taggers would also be required to complete community service hours and minors would be subject to curfew restrictions. Penalties will be increased for repeat offenders and most importantly, all taggers will be charged and prosecuted.

I believe that these changes are absolutely necessary in our effort to reduce acts of graffiti and to prevent the growth of gangs in our community. If we can reach young people at an early stage, we may be able to keep them from a destructive life and put a stop to the cycle of gang violence.

## Illegal Street Racing Down 55% in San Diego

I am pleased to announce that since 2003, illegal street racing has been reduced by 55% in San Diego thanks to an aggressive program established by the City Council. The Drag-Net Unit, a special team of the Police Department, was formed and funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety in 2002.

The Drag-Net Unit was trained to identify and enforce illegal street racing activity and to raise public awareness of the problem. Their outstanding efforts have led to a reduction in reports of street racing from 361 calls in 2003 to 161 calls in 2006. More importantly, last year there were two street racing collisions that resulted in death or serious injury. In 2002, there were 14 street racing related deaths and 31 serious injuries in 2002. I am very proud of progress that we have made in four short years and I am confident that this successful program has resulted in safer streets for our families.

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## New Crosswalks Installed at Jerabek Elementary



Councilmember Brian Maienschein, Principal Tom Liberto and students celebrate the installation of new crosswalks at Jerabek Elementary School. The crosswalks, which were funded by Councilmember Maienschein, will help ensure that crossing zones are more visible to motorists and safer for students.

## Maienschein Delivers for Meals on Wheels



Councilmember Brian Maienschein spent the morning of March 20, 2007 driving around Rancho Bernardo delivering hot meals to local seniors at their homes. Councilmember Maienschein partnered with the Meals on Wheels Program in an effort to highlight the important work of the organization and enlist the support of community volunteers.

“Meals on Wheels performs a vital service for the seniors in our community and I was pleased to have the opportunity to get involved,” said Maienschein. “I am hopeful that my efforts will help others become familiar with the Meals on Wheels program and consider helping out.”

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## Smoothen Ride in Rancho Bernardo with the Repaving of Pomerado Road

I am pleased to announce that I was recently able to resurface Pomerado Road from Rancho Bernardo Road to Greens East Road.

Pomerado Road is one of heaviest traveled roads in our community and I have been working diligently on finding the necessary funding to get it repaired.

The surface of this portion of Pomerado is now completely smooth and pothole free. It is important that we keep our streets safe; especially as the number of cars using these streets continues to increase.

Since taking office, my priority has been to protect our quality of life. I will continue to work hard to make our community a great place to live.



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**<http://www.sandiego.gov/city-council/district-5>**

From my website, you can also sign up to receive **e-News from MAIENstreet** every month via e-mail.

It's a pleasure to serve you on the San Diego City Council!